

The Facts on Drinking Water

Ongoing and equitable access to clean, safe water is critical to our health, economy, and way of life.

The average American uses approximately

64,240 gallons

of water in one year



Water is an essential resource



Every day, people rely on clean water for many things, including drinking, bathing, cooking, washing clothes, and handwashing

Water is cleaned, reused, recycled, and returned to the environment



The average American sends between **66-182 gallons** of wastewater to the system each day

There are approximately **800,000 miles** of water pipes in the U.S.



The average age of water pipes is

60-130 years old



Less than 1% of water on Earth is usable fresh water

The Great Lakes hold **84%** of North America's surface fresh water and about **21%** of the world's supply

Water utilities in the U.S. are required to monitor for

over 100 contaminants

